



**City of Bloomington
Environmental Commission**

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, February 21, 2013, 7:00 pm
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

Attending:

Chaim Julian, Mike Litwin, Linda Thompson (Staff), Dedaimia Whitney, Andy Williams, Carissa Moncavage (Vice-Chair), Sean Gorman, and Kriste Lindberg

Absent:

Diane Jung, Dianne May, Carrie Albright (Chair), and Deborah Myerson

I. Introductions (5 min)

II. Announcements (8 min)

- A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, March 21st, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
- B. Next Planning Committee meetings: March 14th, 4:10 pm, Planning Dept.
- C. Next Tree Commission meeting: March 20th, 9:30 am, Rose Hill Office
- D. Next BCOS meeting: March 12th, 6:00 pm, McCloskey Room
- E. Next Co. Environ. Quality & Sus. Com. meeting: March 13th, 5:30 pm, Rm 100 Showers North (2nd Wed of the month)
- F. MCMGA Garden Fair: April 6th, 9:00-4:00, IN National Guard Armory
- G. Eco-Heroes Award Ceremony: April 24th, 5:30 pm, City Hall Atrium

III. Approval of January Minutes (5 min)

- A. Gorman motions for the approval of January minutes. Julian seconds. Williams abstains. The motion passes unanimously.

IV. Public Comment (5 min) (Time mark: 7:15)

V. Committee reports & discussions (35 min)

A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (15 min: Chaim, Dianne, Mike, Linda)

1. Summer House Inn, East 3rd Street: Apartment/Motel.
 - i. They are making revisions but have not turned them in yet.
 - a. The EC will not have a chance to review the revisions before drafting the memo.
2. BW Properties, West 2nd Street, just west of Sowders Landscaping and Landmark Drive: Currently a warehouse like building called “Secretly Canadian and CS Distribution”.
 - i. They want to expand and build another warehouse building.
 - a. The ECPC looked the plan over and said they needed to include green building and a landscape plan.
 - ii. Thompson emailed the petitioners to clarify that the building is an industrial building.
 - a. They are not adding on to the current building because they have two separate lots.
 - iii. They submitted a landscape plan which Thompson will review carefully for them to improve upon.
 - a. They have said they are in compliance in regards to impervious surface.
 - iv. On their PUD they are following the setbacks.
3. The other cases on the Planning Commission agenda have no environmental issues.
 - i. Cambria Suites is on hold.

B. L4L/Natural Landscaping Committee (5 min: Diane, Kriste)

1. Volunteers will be needed for the Master Spring Gardener Fair on April 6th.

C. BEQI Committee (5 min: Carissa, Carrie)

1. The transportation section is currently under review by Thompson.
2. Piepenburg has been gathering data on air emissions.
 - i. She gathered statistics from the EPA for 2002 and 2008.
3. The committee will be meeting next week to provide a more thorough update at the next meeting.

D. Eco-Hero Award Committee (5 min: Carrie, Kriste, Sean)

1. The Committee has received many donations and sponsors and has begun business follow-ups.
2. Myerson communicated with the art teacher at Fairview to determine what art supplies they may need and Albright is meeting with the Mayor soon regarding this matter.
3. Volunteers will be needed for the April 24th Award Ceremony.
 - i. A post will be made to reach community volunteers via the City’s volunteer network but the help of 4-5 commissioners would also be greatly appreciated.
 - ii. Set up for the event is at 4:30 with the event commencing at 5:30 pm. It should go no longer than 7:30 pm with clean up done by 8 pm.

E. Martin Luther King Day Recap (5 min: Diane, Kriste)

1. ?

VI. Old business (10 min)

A. EAB follow-up (5 min: Linda)

1. A decision was made to forgo writing a letter of recommendation and instead the EC has decided to focus efforts towards public education this spring, such as encouraging citizens to plant native trees.
 - i. Lee Huss liked the idea and will be sharing it with the rest of the tree commission soon.
 - a. Huss gave Thompson a list of 9 trees that the tree commission is recommending citizen’s plant in their yard.

2. The EC is considering forming a committee or something of the sort to possibly collaborate with the tree commission.
3. Huss wrote a letter of recommendation as he described it to the EC at the December meeting and gave it to the Director of the Parks Department who will take it to the Mayor.
 - i. Huss is not planning on doing any treatment this year, but has a list of trees planned for removal and will be replacing them with other species gradually this year.
4. Discussion continues on possible activities for public education and collaboration with the Tree Commission.

B. I-69 follow-up (5 min: Carrie)

1. Albright met with Josh Desmond of the City's Planning Department about who may weigh in on the I-69 issue.
 - i. The official comment period for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) started at the beginning of January.
 - a. Desmond's suggestion for the EC is for the group to help make suggestions for the MPO budget requests in regards to the trickle down effects from I-69.
 - b. Trickle down effects such as traffic being diverted through currently less trafficked streets particularly near the west Crestmont area. High traffic through this area may make it harder for kids to play in public spaces or prevent people walking to town.
 - ii. The EC can write a letter of support to fund allocation to more sidewalks, more side paths, additional green space, etc.
2. Julian volunteers to attend the MPO meeting if his schedule permits.
3. Further discussion will be postponed until next meeting.

VII. New business (40 min)

(Time mark 8:11 pm)

A. Committee volunteers (10 min: Carrie, all)

1. Eco-Hero Ceremony
 - i. Discussed previously in the meeting.
2. Public Education committee
 - i. ?
3. Garden Show
 - i. ?

B. Ordinance discussion (30 min: Carrie, all)

1. Litwin has been attending meetings regarding Imagine Bloomington.
 - i. The document the committee will produce states the philosophy of Bloomington's physical growth for the future.
 - a. The committee wrote and recently passed a vision statement and now will begin writing the plan. The EC should be a part of shaping this plan.
 - b. After the document is finished changes are made to ordinances to follow the guiding principles set out in the plan.
 - ii. Before the EC can begin writing ordinances it should determine what it wants to include in the final plan (GPP).
2. It is unclear what this discussion is in regards to and will be postponed until the next meeting.

VIII. Commissioner Announcements (15 min)

(Time mark 8:32 pm)

A. BCOS update

1. Moncavage attended the last BCOS meeting.

- i. The group shared updates on projects such as the Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light Grant for churches in the community.
- ii. Dave Rollo met with Representative Todd Young to discuss the issue of climate change.
 - a. Rollo said it was a positive meeting but Young remains agnostic about the issue.

2. The Trashion Refashion deadline for submissions is March 1st.

B. Lindberg talks about a Parks and Recreation summer program that involves going to different green spots in Bloomington where participants would then engage in natural landscaping and storm water related activities.

1. **(?) motions for the EC to become a sponsor of this program. Gorman (?) seconds. The motion passes unanimously.**

C. Julian is participating in the Bowling for Kids Sake this year and would appreciate any donations people can contribute to his team.

1. Announcement regarding Johnson, permaculture?

D. Litwin attended the Parks Department Environmental Resources Advisory Council (ERAC) meeting on February 13th.

1. Regarding EAB, there is a lot of controversy about the proposed lethal deer control method proposed for Griffy Nature Preserve.

- i. The Switchyard Park master plan is being completed and the steering committee has been disbanded.

2. Litwin also attended the steering committee meeting for the comprehensive plan.

- i. There will be a series of 9 steering committee meetings between now and summer to address goal setting, then implementation, with public meetings at each stage.

- ii. The timeline is to finish the whole process and send the plan to the Council by next year.

IX. Adjournment

(Time mark 9:05 pm)

Gorman (?) moves for the meeting to be adjourned. Julian (?) seconds. The motion passes unanimously.